

Ladies, help is at hand: Lack of awareness of measures in place such as Suraksha app, safety islands, helpline numbers leaves women more vulnerable

WHAT WOMEN WANT

5,154 cases of molestation, 'eve-teasing' till Sept this year

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Even as cases of molestation are on the rise in the city, many incidents are going unreported and a significant number of individuals are unaware of the available safety resources like the Suraksha app and designated safety islands. This leaves women more vulnerable in public spaces.

An incident of last Thursday under Saddagunte Palya police sta-

tion limits where a 24-year-old woman was groped by an unknown man while she was walking with her friends on Tavarekere Main Road at 4.30 pm revealed how even in the day time, women are at risk. The woman's friends managed to apprehend the individual and handed him over to the police, requesting appropriate legal action.

The city has recorded 5,154 cases of molestation and eve-teasing in 2024 up to September, with 500 incidents reported in September alone. Activists, however, argue that the actual number is likely

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>



In many cases the victims are not aware of the safety apps and other measures they can opt for while in distress — Police official

BITTER MEDS



Drug Control Department officials swoop down on 8 medical shops, seizing significant amount of illegally sold drugs

PAGE 5



Happy Diwali



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3 THINGS TO DO



01 Carnatic music

Join in for an evening of Carnatic splendor. As a prequel event of the Mysuru Sangeetha Sugandha 2024, the National Gallery of Modern Art Bengaluru (Ministry of Culture, Government of India) presents a Carnatic Vocal Concert by RA Ramamani. Experience an enchanting evening of classical South Indian music, celebrating the timeless Dasa tradition of Carnatic music. **Where:** National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road; **When:** November 2, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

02 Test of time



Watch 'Karnalge Yaaru Bareyodilla,' a play based on Gabriel Garcia Marquez's 1961 novella 'No One Writes to the Colonel' as part of Ranga Shankara's Theatre Festival, 2024. The Colonel and his wife are waiting for a letter. While it is true

that they are waiting for the letter, that's just an excuse. Waiting is a process that is all pervasive in their life. The magical writer Marquez illustrates that this is the state of the entire humankind through his characters. **Where:** Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; **When:** November 1, 7:30 pm

03 Diya making session

This festive season, learn to create beautifully designed clay lamps, infusing your creativity with the essence of light and celebration through 'Diya making workshop'. Immerse yourself in the artistry of traditional Diya making with a hands-on experience where you'll craft your own Diyas, perfect for adorning festivals, bringing warmth to your home, and celebrating cultural traditions. **Where:** Small World, Koramangala; **When:** October 31 onwards



Increased rainfall boosts hydroelectricity in state

State's major reservoirs are filled to their capacity; hydropower generation reaches its peak, reducing need for thermal power plants

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Due to abundant rainfall across the state, major reservoirs are filled to capacity, leading to peak hydroelectric power generation levels. Water levels have risen significantly at Linganamakki, Supa, and Mani reservoirs, providing a reliable source to meet energy demands. Sources in Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) said, "In 2023, a shortage of rainfall posed challenges for energy production at the state's three main reservoirs. As of October 25, the water level at Linganamakki Reservoir, a key source for the Sharavathi Hydroelectric Project, reached 146.42 TMC feet, achieving 96.5 per cent of total capacity. This storage enables the project, with a capacity of 1,035 MW, to generate approximately 4,397 million units of electricity."

Similarly, the Supa Reservoir, which feeds the Kali River Hydroelectric Project, held 139.65 TMC feet on October 25, amounting to 96 per cent of its capacity. This reserve could support the generation of 3,036 million units, with the project having a capacity of 900 MW. Additionally, the Mani Reservoir, supplying water for the Varahi Project, had 29.35 TMC feet on the same date, represent-

ing 94 per cent of capacity and supporting a generation of 917 million units at the project's 460 MW capacity, according to KPCL officials.

In comparison, on October 25 of last year, water levels at Linganamakki, Supa, and Mani reservoirs were 65.95 TMC feet (43%), 75.52 TMC feet (52%), and 10.93 TMC feet, respectively. The increased reservoir levels this year allow for higher electricity generation, reducing the need for thermal power plants.

Lesser reliance on thermal power

KPCL sources noted that the rise in hydroelectric production has already decreased reliance on thermal power units. It may be noted that on October 24, the Sharavathi Project generated 16.795 million units, the Kali Project produced 11.966 million units, and the Varahi Project generated 3.122 million units of electricity, demonstrating maximum power production capabilities.

Light rains predicted

Meanwhile, many parts of the city received heavy rainfall on Wednesday afternoon. The Meteorological Department has predicted light rainfall for the next few days. Dr N Puvirasan, a scientist at the India Meteorological Department (IMD),



The view of Jog Falls in August following increased discharge from the upstream Linganamakki Reservoir into the Sharavathi River

shared insights on the weather forecast, mentioning that Bengaluru is expected to remain mostly cloudy, with light to moderate rain or thundershowers likely throughout the day. Early morning mist may be present in some areas, and temperatures are projected to range around 28°C for the maximum and 20°C for the minimum.

Additionally, he stated that isolated heavy rain or thundershowers are likely to occur in Chikkamagaluru and Shivamogga districts. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are also expected in Uttara Kannada,

Udupi, and Dakshina Kannada districts of Coastal Karnataka. "Furthermore, light to moderate rain or thundershowers may occur in Kolar, Chikkaballapura, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Tumkur, Mysuru, Chitradurga, Hassan, Mandya, and Davangere districts. Isolated light to moderate showers are possible in Belagavi, Dharwad, Haveri, Gadag, Bidar, and Kalaburagi districts, while light rain may fall in a few areas of South Interior Karnataka. In contrast, dry weather is likely to prevail in North Interior Karnataka," he said.

Citizens cycle towards sustainable city

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The Rotary HSR Cycling Day, a monthly community activity, has successfully marked a decade of commitment to sustainable commuting in HSR Layout. With the HSR residents cycling on a daily basis and promoting cycling in their neighbourhood, the initiative has gained positive momentum.

Recently, as part of the 22nd edition of HSR Cycle Day, Rotary Bengaluru HSR partnered with HSR cyclists and active residents to spotlight cycling as an alternative to traditional commuting. It witnessed enthusiastic participation from students. The event kicked off with an invigorating warm-up session, followed by a

5.5-km cycling route. Games like slow cycling, tyre rolling, and even creative freehand rangoli further brought a sense of fun and community engagement.

Cycling not only helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also promotes healthier lifestyles and strengthens community bonds. Likewise, by replacing short car trips with cycling, HSR residents are contributing to lower carbon emissions, reducing traffic congestion, and improving air quality in the neighbourhood.

In an urban setup like HSR Layout, where traffic and pollution are constant concerns, Cycle Day exemplifies how community-driven initiatives can drive positive change. Rtn Suresh V, Past President, Rotary Bengaluru HSR, said, "The Rotary Bengaluru HSR Cycle Day has been an ini-



tiative taken forward post-Covid. Pre-Covid, the HSR cyclist group started this initiative in 2014, and it's been a decade now. From 2022, Rotary HSR carried on this sustainable transport initiative to bring awareness among the residents of HSR Layout to use bicycles for the daily commute. This has definitely brought in the impact among the residents of HSR on the importance of using sustainable transport such as

bicycles, feeder buses, etc to commute within the area."

Harish Surampade, an avid cyclist who leads the Rotary Pedal Shale initiative, stated that he travels over 25 kilometres one way to train enthusiastic learners, in addition to his own long-distance cycling. "I've actively participated in various cycling events across Bengaluru and Kolkata. In the Rotary Pedal Shale initiative, 50 learners have registered in just five months, with nearly 40 completing their training. Notably, around 10 participants have purchased bicycles for their daily commutes," he said.

HSR Cycle Day is more than just a cycling event; it's a community celebration that promotes sustainable transportation. Participants can enjoy a variety of engaging activities, Surampade added.

Fan murder case: Darshan gets conditional bail

Actor allowed to choose hospital for treatment, asked to submit details in 1 week

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday granted conditional bail on medical grounds to Kannada actor Darshan for six weeks in the fan murder case.

The bench stated that availing medical treatment is the right of an undertrial and granted interim bail for six weeks to get treatment for severe back pain. As per the submission of the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Prasanna Kumar, the bench has directed the seizure of the actor's passport.

The bench has allowed Darshan to get the treatment at his choice of hospital. He has also been asked to submit the details and report of the medical treatment he is undergoing within seven days.

Single bench Justice S Vishwajith Shetty passed the order. Darshan, Pavithra Gowda and 15 others were arrested on June 11 on charges of kidnapping and brutally murdering Renukaswamy from Chitradurga.

The High Court on Tuesday reserved its order on the bail petition of jailed Darshan after completing arguments and counterarguments. Senior counsel CV Nagesh, appearing for the jailed actor, had stated that Darshan is suffering from severe back pain, which is causing numbness in his legs. He added that if the condition persists, Darshan could face further health complications.

Nagesh explained that there is an issue with a disc that is obstructing blood flow, making



In this file image Darshan being taken to a hospital for medical check up, in Bengaluru

surgery unavoidable for Darshan. He noted that the health issue was not mentioned when the initial bail plea was submitted, but has since worsened, prompting them to seek bail on medical grounds. He argued that everyone has the right to health, and under these circumstances, regardless of the charges, bail should be granted.

Special Public Prosecutor (SPP), Prasanna Kumar, had opposed the bail, stating that the doctors who examined Darshan indicated only potential future complications. In the previous report, the doctors noted that there was no serious health issue at present.

Kumar added that while there was a problem with Darshan's hip, it has since been stabilised. The Bench observed that even undertrials have a right to health and questioned the SPP about considering the latest health report. **-IANS**

Supporters go into celebratory mode

Darshan Thoogudeepa's fans burst into celebration in various parts of Karnataka on Wednesday, after news broke that the Karnataka High Court granted the actor, an accused in the Renukaswamy murder case, an interim bail on medical grounds.

Darshan's wife Vijayalakshmi performed a special prayer at Durgamma temple in the district headquarters town of Ballari, where her husband is lodged in a prison.

Waving Darshan's posters, hundreds of his fans distributed sweets and burst crackers in several areas of Ballari and Bengaluru, among others. Karnataka Housing and Waqf Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan expressed his joy over the interim bail granted to Darshan. **-PTI**

Victim's family: Have faith in law, police

Family of Renukaswamy on Wednesday declined to comment on Karnataka High Court granting the actor interim bail, but expressed confidence that the guilty will be punished as they have faith in judiciary and police.

"Bail has been granted under the legal system, we cannot comment on it. We have faith that the guilty will be punished. We have faith in law and the police.

(Darshan's) treatment is a matter for the doctor, him and the court, we won't comment on it," Renukaswamy's father Kashinath Shivanagoudar said. "We don't have anything to say other than that the guilty should be punished. We have faith in law and judiciary, so we are confident that the guilty will be punished," he added. **-PTI**

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Activists fault BBMP for unsafe building practices

Volunteers call on Karnataka Lokayukta to instruct BBMP Chief Commissioner to publish illegal construction data and notices online

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A group of volunteers has submitted a memorandum to the Karnataka Lokayukta and Upa Lokayukta, urging action to prevent unauthorised building construction following the recent collapse of an illegal multi-story building that led to the tragic death of nine workers.

They accused Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) engineers of rampant corruption and allowing illegal construction, stating that their failure to act has led to significant revenue loss for the BBMP. "The corruption among the BBMP engineers is the main reason for the construction of buildings without plan and approval in the city. The property owners must pay fees to avail of building plans from the BBMP. Property owners constructing buildings illegally do not pay any fees, except bribing engineers, to the civic body. This results in revenue loss for the BBMP. It also encourages disorderly growth of the city," said Veeresh BH, an RTI activist.

The activists said that they were aware of Lokayukta and Upa Lokayukta inspected the building that collapsed at Anjanadri Layout near Hennur and registered a suo motu



File photo of the collapsed building

case. They said that more than five lakh illegal buildings were constructed in the city and among them one lakh residential apartment complexes were constructed without approval. "BBMP authorities are not supposed to sanction a plan for constructing a building on the site that has B khata. Though lakhs of buildings were constructed, the BBMP does not have data on the demolition of illegal buildings in the last 10 years," Veeresh said.

The activists demanded Karnataka Lokayukta to direct the BBMP Chief Commissioner to provide data on the BBMP website on illegal constructions and the notices issued to the property owners.

"I blame the BBMP Chief Commissioner for illegal constructions

“Lack of proper site inspections and scrutiny has led to rampant violations and poor construction quality

— Vinod Jacob, Namma Bengaluru

and the death of innocent and hapless workers in the recent building collapse incident. I urge the Deputy Chief Minister to replace the BBMP Chief Commissioner without any delay and appoint a sincere IAS officer instead to avoid further damage to the city. The present Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister were against the BBMP Chief Commissioner when they were in opposi-

tion. I do not know why they allow the Chief Commissioner to continue in office," said HM Venkatesh of Naija Horatagarara Vedike.

Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation emphasised the need for a significant overhaul in BBMP's operations, asserting that no construction occurs without their knowledge. He stated it is their duty to inspect and approve only those plans that meet the city's standards and building bye-laws. "The lack of proper site inspections and scrutiny has led to rampant violations and poor construction quality, resulting in building collapse, loss of life and also flooding. These zoning violations are causing significant revenue losses for the city," said Vinod Jacob.

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Trash pileup

Kammanahalli



Garbage is piling up along the roadside near the SBI Bank on Kammanahalli Main Road, creating an unsightly and unhygienic environment.

Garbage blockade

Girinagar



A garbage issue persists in the middle of the 80ft Road at 9th Cross, Girinagar 2nd Phase.

Stagnant water and exposed cables raise concerns in ITI Layout

Locals report worsening roads with broken patches, making travel unsafe for commuters

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Residents of ITI Layout near SK Garden are sounding the alarm over the deteriorating condition of their neighbourhood roads. One side of the road is completely worn out, making it difficult for vehicles to pass. Despite numerous complaints to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and assurances that the issue would be addressed, the road remains neglected.

"The road is practically unusable. It's filled with potholes and broken patches. We're fed up with the empty assurances. BBMP officials said they would fix it, but nothing has happened," said a member of ITI Layout RWA.

When the Deputy Chief Minister ordered the BBMP to begin a citywide

pothole-filling drive, these roads remained untouched. Although the asphalt vehicle came in but they stated that it needed a thorough road repair and claimed to repair the roads in ITI Layout as part of this initiative and went back. However, it wasn't done and residents said there has been no improvement. The road continues to crumble, with deep, muddy patches forming due to recent rains. As the road wears down, underground optical fibre cables (OFC) are surfacing, posing additional risks to pedestrians and vehicles alike. "We're concerned about exposed cables. It's dangerous, especially for children who walk here every day," said another resident.

Water stagnation in the muddy patches has also become a serious problem. The stagnant water creates a breeding ground for mosquitoes, leading residents to fear a spike in mosquito-borne diseases. "With all



Road filled with broken patches and potholes

this water collecting, we're worried about dengue and malaria cases going up in our area. It feels like no one is listening. When we take out our card it feels like they are sinking inside the muddy stretch," lamented a resident. Despite multiple requests for action, the local MLA and BBMP officials have not yet addressed the situation. Residents express frustration over what they perceive as a



lack of accountability and responsibility from their elected representatives.

"Every time we reach out, it's the same story. They tell us repairs are on the way, but nothing changes. We're the ones dealing with the daily inconvenience," added the resident. The deteriorating condition of the road continues to impact the daily lives of those in ITI Layout.

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Grieving parents call for safety upgrades on NICE Road

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

After losing their 19-year-old son to a tragic road accident along the NICE Road in August, a couple has made a heartfelt appeal to the NICE authorities. "Let no blood be spilled there..." These are the words of grief from an email sent by Santosh Joseph, a civil engineer, and Sona Victor, his wife, who are grieving the loss of their son Shayne Mario Santosh.

According to previous reports, Shayne tragically lost his life in a fatal accident on August 14 while he was riding his bike along the NICE Road near Ramasandra. The unexpected

loss of their beloved son left Santosh and Sona devastated. Upon returning to Bengaluru from Kuwait to identify their son's body, the couple struggled to accept the reality of Shane's death, who had always been a cautious driver. They subsequently sent an email to NICE, urging them to implement safety measures on the road to prevent similar tragedies.

Safety concerns flagged

During their visit to the accident site, Santosh and Sona observed multiple safety hazards, including a sharp curve and an adjacent drainage canal lacking proper barricades, which they suspect contributed to the accident. The absence of reflector tiles, warning signs, and CCTV cameras only added to their concern.



File photo of NICE Road

In their letter to NICE authorities, they listed these hazards, requesting road markings, reflector tiles at haz-

ardous spots, and clear signage to improve safety and prevent further accidents. Additionally, they urged

NICE authorities to impose fines at exit toll points for vehicles violating traffic regulations, arguing that stricter enforcement could reduce accidents.

No road issues; CCTVs shall be installed soon: NICE officials

Despite almost three months having passed since the email was sent, Santosh and Sona have not received any response from NICE officials. When contacted, NICE stated that there were no road issues at the accident site. They acknowledged the absence of CCTV cameras in the area but mentioned they had recently received the required permissions and would install cameras once available.

Rogue pharmacies get taste of own medicine

Officers raid multiple medicals violating drug laws, regulations across city; seize medicines

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Tn a crackdown on illegal drug trade in Bengaluru, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) Narcotics Squad and the Drug Control Officers, in a joint operation with the Drug Control Department, have swooped down on eight medical shops across the city, seizing a significant amount of illegally sold drugs.

Medicine misuse

During their raids, investigators observed the sale of medicines in an open place, a violation in itself, at Kritika Porwal's pharmacy in Chick Bazar Road, Shivajinagar, on March 2, 2024. But the bigger concern was of the drugs being dispensed—Tramadol and Tapentadol—powerful pain relievers often misused for their euphoric effects.

"We have received numerous complaints from both the public and various police stations regarding the misuse of Tapentadol. Addicts are reportedly injecting themselves after obtaining the drug from medical shops. We have conducted more than 250 medical shop inspections. Based on a tip from the police station, it appears these drugs are being sold without a prescription. Officers from the police and Drug Control Department will investigate the sales records, and if they don't match, it will be clear that these drugs are being sold illegally without proper prescriptions," said Dr Umesh S, Drug Control Department. Noting the shifting of trends between switching from one drug to another, Dr Umesh S said, "Earlier it used to be Tramadol; now, Tapentadol is misused."

City-wide drug busts

The officers confiscated 21 strips of Tapentadol 100 mg, totalling 210



'Addicts are reportedly injecting themselves after obtaining the drug from medical shops'

Police can't seize drugs; we cannot make arrests. If we acted alone, there would be gaps. By collaborating, we've succeeded in many cases

—Dr Umesh S, Drug Control Department

tablets, along with a stockpile of insulin syringes at Aurangajez's Medical Shop in Yelahanka. Meanwhile, Anitha Medicals in BTM Layout was found selling drugs like Zapit and Tytap tablets, both of which are not meant for unmonitored sale. Various tablets, such as Tapentadol tablets, Tendok 100 mg, and Termandal, were seized on August 16 from Abhinava Medicals, Katriguppe Road.

The Drug Control Department issued a press release highlighting the potential misuse of Tapentadol in August. A dedicated online portal was launched for distributors and retailers to report their sales in real-time on a daily basis. This system was developed to prevent the misuse of such medications by ensuring transparency and traceability in the supply chain. If the purchase and sales update doesn't tally, it was con-

sidered a red flag.

However, September saw a flurry of raids. The Drug Control Officers seized 42 sheets of Tapentadol, 51 sheets of Atrapar-Tramadol, 12 sheets of Tramacet, and 21 sheets of Tramadol at Yaswa Pharma on Pipeline Road, JC Nagar on September 4. Additionally, 19 bottles of Tramadol insulin were also seized. It was reported that with such a large stock of controlled substances, the shop had been operating as a major hub for the illegal distribution of prescription painkillers in the area.

Moreover, acting on a tip-off, on October 22, the officers seized 3,210 Tramadol tablets, 20 Tapentadol tablets, 890 Alprazolam sleeping tablets, and 8 bottles of codeine cough syrup being sold without a prescription at Sri Datta Sai Shreyas Pharma and Medical

Store, Nagavarapalya Main Road.

Search & seizure power

According to Section 22 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, inspectors are granted the authority to search, seize, and examine records related to the sale, manufacture, or distribution of drugs and cosmetics. Moreover, they can stop and search places or vehicles suspected of carrying such products.

When drugs or cosmetics are seized, inspectors must inform a Judicial Magistrate and seek guidance regarding custody, with the option to revoke the seizure if the issue is resolved. However, despite credible information about medical stores selling unauthorised drugs, inspectors are restricted from taking direct action, as they must follow specific legal procedures. "We're working together because each of us has certain powers—the police can't seize the drugs, and we can't make arrests. If we acted alone, there would be gaps. But by collaborating, we've succeeded in many cases," added Dr Umesh.

3 nabbed for assault, public drinking

The Byadarahalli police have arrested three individuals for assaulting a couple on Sunday night. The accused, namely—Anand, Sanjay, and Dhanu—were detained after they violently assaulted a couple, Shivalinge Gowda and his wife, for questioning their public drinking.

The confrontation began when Gowda parked his car outside his home around 9 PM and noticed the trio drinking alcohol nearby. Concerned for the safety of families in the area, he approached them, but the situation quickly escalated. Later that night, Gowda's wife faced verbal abuse from the accused while walking their dog. Despite her attempts to calm the situation, tensions flared, and the group attacked the couple, using weapons such as bricks and knives. Gowda sustained serious injuries, including a deep wound to his hand, while his wife was also injured. The incident was captured on CCTV. A case has been registered against the three men. The investigation is ongoing.

—BMB

Biker dies after falling under bus

Atwo-wheeler rider was killed on the spot after losing control of his motorcycle while trying to overtake a moving bus on a narrow service road near the old BDA complex on Wednesday.

The accident occurred at around 11:25 am when a bus driver on duty for Unit-06 of East Zone was returning after completing his overnight shift. The deceased rider attempted to overtake the bus but braked suddenly upon noticing a stationary vehicle ahead. This sudden manoeuvre caused the rider to lose control, leading to a fatal fall under the rear right side wheel of the moving bus, leading to death. The police have conducted an investigation, and officials from the organisation inspected the accident site. The victim's body was taken to Bowring Hospital for a post-mortem examination.

—BMB



Diwali rush

Bengaluru gears up for the festive weekend as markets abuzz with Diwali shoppers buying colourful lanterns and lamps



Non-green fireworks take over B'luru's sky

City sees only 5-10% compliance with eco-friendly fireworks due to illegal imports

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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The state government has mandated the use of eco-friendly (green) fireworks for several years. Each Deepavali, the government imposes a restriction that permits only the sale of green fireworks. However, despite this regulation, only about 5% to 10% of the fireworks sold in the city are eco-friendly. Last year, the city saw fireworks sales totalling 400 crore, with only 240 crore coming from green options. This year, the industry anticipates a turnover of around 2,500 crore, but it is projected that only 40 to 50 crore will be generated from eco-friendly fireworks.

Sources said that one of the main reasons is that many people continue to purchase prohibited fireworks, disregarding the mandate for eco-friendly options. Particularly, banned fireworks are being brought into the city from nearby Hosur in Tamil Nadu. These imported fireworks, contributing to air, noise, and environmental pollution, are being sold widely despite the restrictions.

The demand for fireworks has increased across the city. Notably, banned fireworks are also being sold in areas like Attibele and Chandapura on the Hosur Road, where the trade in such items is flourishing. "Last year, around 2,400 crore worth of transactions took place, and we estimate that the turnover could reach 2,500 crore this time. However, a significant amount of money is being spent in neighbouring Hosur for cheaper fireworks, resulting in revenue losses for Karnataka. We might see sales of just 50 crore to 100 crore in Bengaluru, and the green fireworks rule is not being strictly followed," commented a firecracker trader. He said, "We sell fireworks with the necessary permis-



Last year, city fireworks sales reached Rs 400 crore, with green options accounting for just Rs 240 crore

“Strict adherence to use of green crackers is needed to safeguard animals and birds. Officials are tasked with monitoring pollution levels

—Official

sions and GST invoices, but illegal sales have surged. Hundreds of shops have opened along the Tamil Nadu-Karnataka border in Hosur, where it's unclear if they are selling green fireworks or not. Due to discounts, people from the city go there, leading to tax losses and environmental pollution."

A visit to cracker shops revealed that despite the push for green crackers, the prevalence of non-green variants persisted across the city. Business owners attribute the contin-

ued demand for non-green crackers to various factors, including consumer unawareness of green cracker locations and the higher prices of these environmentally friendly options.

Recently, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) directed officials to inspect cracker godowns and seize non-green crackers, initiating criminal cases against the respective dealers. The board specified that green crackers would feature a distinct logo and QR code, aiding officials in verification during inspections. It stressed that cracker packets lacking the logo or QR code would be subject to seizure. A QR coding system has been introduced to differentiate green crackers from conventional ones, allowing consumers to track the crackers using smartphones.

"Strict adherence to the use of green crackers is needed to safeguard animals, birds, children, and senior citizens. Officials are tasked with monitoring air and noise pollution

levels, conducting quality analyses. Public places are encouraged to promote environmentally friendly celebrations through pamphlets and audio-visual messages. The use of crackers near hospitals, educational institutions, and restricted areas is prohibited, with police enforcing these regulations. The Commercial Taxes Department was assigned to monitor illegal cracker transportation, establishing checkpoints at border areas to prevent illicit transportation," said an official.

While green crackers are marketed as a safer alternative, some experts caution against potential dangers. Despite being designed with alternative raw materials, green crackers are not entirely chemical-free. In 2019, the Centre introduced green firecrackers, claiming to address the air pollution crisis. Developed by CSIR labs, these environmentally friendly fireworks include sound-emitting crackers, flowerpots, and sparklers, offering a safer option for consumers and sellers in the Indian market.

Luxury buses for KSRTC

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) inducted 20 luxury buses, each worth 1.78 crore, of the Airavat Club Class 2.0 model, into its fleet on Wednesday, officials said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, alongside Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, flagged off the new buses and even took a ride in one of them with the Minister.

According to KSRTC, Siddaramaiah presented a 'Sarige Suraksha' accident relief compensation cheque of Rs 1 crore each to two deceased employees (Nagaraju M N, Conductor, Ramanagara Division and Shivanna, Driver-cum-Conductor, Mysuru City Division) dependents.

So far, dependents of 22 deceased employees have been paid with accident compensation of Rs 22 crore. Dependents of five employees, who died due to ailments other than accidents, were also paid family welfare compensation of Rs 10 Lakh each on the occasion.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said KSRTC is the first corporation in the country to introduce these types of innovative schemes and, under the guidance of the Transport Minister, it is bringing laurels to the Government and all its employees are appreciative of this effort.

The new buses have a 3.5 per cent increase in overall bus length, providing more space between passenger seats, officials said.

Case against pilot quashed

The Karnataka High Court has determined that prosecutions under Section 11 of the Aircraft Act require prior sanction from competent authorities before a complaint can be filed.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, presiding over a single judge bench, granted relief to pilot Akash Jaiswal by quashing proceedings against him under Section 11A. In 2020, Jaiswal was involved in an incident at Jakkur Aerodrome where his aircraft veered left during takeoff and toppled. The incident resulted in no injuries to anyone, including the pilot.

The pilot's defence centred on Section 12B of the Act, arguing that courts cannot take cognizance without proper sanction from designated authorities. The court cited Section 12B, stating: "It mandates that no Court shall cognizance of any offence under the Act same on a complaint made by or with the previous sanction in writing by the Director General of Civil Aviation or Director General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security or Director General of Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau, as the case would be." The court further stated that proceeding with the trial despite the lack of required sanction would constitute an abuse of legal process and lead to injustice.



WHY WE LOVE THE HEEBIE-JEEBIES

6 reasons why people enjoy horror movies



The creeping shadows and haunting decorations transform the everyday into something eerie at Halloween. And you might be thinking about scaring yourself with a good horror movie.

Grotesque imagery, extreme violence, startling jump scares and menacing characters are common elements, making viewers feel fear, dread and disgust.

We generally aim to avoid these negative emotions in our everyday lives.

So why would some people seek them out, and enjoy them, in horror movies?

1 Fear can be thrilling

There is lots of overlap between the emotions of fear and excitement. In both, stress hormones are released that can produce physical symptoms such as increased heart and breathing rates, sweating and muscle tension. People also feel more alert and "on edge".

Research has consistently shown people with personalities that crave intense emotional experiences, including fear and excitement, tend to enjoy horror movies.

But for more fearful people, the jump scares and violent scenes can be too intense. This can result in coping behaviours such as looking away or putting their hands over the ears, especially if they are highly immersed in the movie.

Although, if they also happen to enjoy intense emotion, they may still enjoy the thrill of the ride.

2 There's a sense of relief

People may enjoy horror movies because of a sense of relief after a scary moment has passed.

Watching a horror movie can be a bit of an emotional rollercoaster, with distinct peaks and troughs of fear and relief over the course of the film.

For example, in the 2017 movie *It* the main protagonists survive a series of scary encounters with a demonic clown. The scary moments are separated by calmer scenes, prompting a rollercoaster of emotions.

In the classic 1975 movie *Jaws*, viewers experience relief from the scary moments, only to be scared again and again.

3 They satisfy our morbid curiosity

Many horror movies feature supernatural themes and characters such as zombies, werewolves and vampires. So horror movies can help satiate a morbid curiosity.

The violence, death, destruction and grotesque elements can provide curious people a safe space to explore things that are not safe (or socially appropriate) in the real world.

4 We can work out our limits

Horror movies can reflect our deepest fears and prompt introspection about our personal thresholds of fear and disgust.

So some people may enjoy watching them to get a better understanding of their own limits.

Watching horror might also be a way to push personal boundaries to potentially become less fearful or grossed out by things in real life.

In a study one of us (Coltan) conducted, horror movie fans reported less psychological distress during the early months of the COVID pandemic compared with people not

identifying as a horror movie fan.

5 They can be social

Some people say the social aspect of watching horror movies with others is a big part of their appeal.

Watching with others might help some people feel safer. Alternatively, this might help amplify the emotional experience by feeding off the emotions of people around them.

Horror movies are also a common pick as a date night movie. Being scared together gives a good excuse to snuggle and take comfort in each other.

6 They give us pleasure in other people's misery

Horror movies can provide the pleasurable emotion we feel when witnessing the misfortune of others, known as *schadenfreude*. This occurs most when we feel the person experiencing misfortune deserves it.

In many horror movies the characters that suffer a gruesome fate are only side characters. Much of the time these unfortunate souls are made out to be unlikeable and often make foolish choices before their grisly end.

For example, in the 1996 teen witch movie *The Craft*, the character Chris Hooker is portrayed as being cruel to women. Then he dies by being blasted out of a window.

Despite the grisly nature of horror movies, a study by one of us (Coltan) found horror fans seem to have the same levels of empathy as anyone else.

What do I make of all this?

Horror movies allow us to confront our deepest fears through the safety of make-believe.

People enjoy them for lots of different reasons. And the precise combination of reasons differs depending on the specific movie, and the person or people watching it.

What is certain though, is the increasing popularity of horror movies, with many to choose from.

(Shane Rogers and Shannon Muir, Edith Cowan University and Coltan Scrivner, Arizona State University, *The Conversation*)

MIND, BODY & HEART



All you need to know about...

Late menopause

Risk for asthma

While earlier age menopause is known to be detrimental to a woman's health, a new study on Tuesday showed that a later age at natural menopause can pose a greater risk for asthma. Asthma is a common, chronic disease affecting more than 300 million people worldwide.

What is the link

Multiple studies have suggested a possible link between asthma and sex hormones. Most notable is the fact that adult-onset asthma is more common in women than men. While in childhood, asthma is more prevalent in boys, after puberty, asthma occurs more often in girls. Women also tend to have more severe asthma and are less likely to have remission of the disease.

Role of oestrogen

The study, published online today in *Menopause*, the journal of The Menopause Society, suggested the role of natural oestrogen and synthetic oestrogen, such as those used in hormone therapy. The study researchers found that women with early menopause (which occurs between 40 and 44 years of age) are at a reduced risk of asthma, which led them to suggest the role of oestrogen in raising asthma risk. The study showed that women who used hormone therapy had a 63% increased risk of asthma.

Sex-based differences

"This study highlights sex-based differences in asthma, with women at a greater risk for asthma than men in adulthood. It also showed that women with later onset of menopause are at greater risk than those with early onset of menopause," said Dr. Stephanie Faubion, medical director for The Menopause Society. Higher body mass index was also found to be a risk factor for women, but not men, because fat produces oestrogen.

— IANS

MIRRORLIGHTS

Study finds loss of smell linked with inflammation in 140 conditions, could be early sign of disease

A loss of smell -- once a telltale sign of covid-19 -- has been linked with inflammation in nearly 140 medical conditions, including those related to ageing and menopause, and therefore, could be an early sign of neurological and bodily diseases, according to a study.

Researchers said the results highlighted the role that our sense of smell plays in maintaining physical and mental health.

"The data are particularly interesting because we had previously found that olfactory (smell-related) enrichment can improve the memory of older adults by 226 per cent," Michael Leon, a professor emeritus at the University

of California-Irvine, US, and lead author of the study published in the journal *Frontiers in Molecular Neuroscience*, said.

"We now know that pleasant scents can decrease inflammation, potentially pointing to the mechanism by which such scents can improve brain health," Leon said.

The findings could have implications for addressing symptoms and possibly reducing onset of certain diseases by treating one's sense of smell, which can often precede ageing-related conditions such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, the researchers proposed.



For the study, the researchers tracked 139 medical conditions related to both a loss of smell and heightened inflammation, thereby uncovering insights into a route shared between the two symp-

toms.

Given that linking a loss of smell with a wide range of disorders is complex, tracking down studies for several medical conditions was difficult, Leon said.

Majority of the studies the team looked at (9,000) pertained to long Covid's loss of smell, while close to 2,000 looked at olfactory loss due to ageing-related memory loss. About 3,900 studies explored loss of smell in menopause and 3,500 pertained to loss of smell in depression.

"Olfactory loss accompanies at least 139 neurological, somatic, and congenital/hereditary conditions," the authors wrote. — PTI

When in distress, these are safety measures available

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

much higher, as many incidents go unreported.

According to police officials, in many cases the victims are not aware of the safety apps and other measures they can opt for while in distress. However, victims Bangalore Mirror spoke to mentioned that in such situations, they often experience shock and go completely blank.

The victims BM spoke to were not aware of safety islands and how they can be used in such distress. They emphasised the need to popularise such facilities.



Safety measures

The Suraksha app, developed by the Karnataka Police, is a key tool aimed at enhancing women's safety. The app features an SOS button that, when pressed, sends an alert to the police control room along with the user's GPS location, enabling immediate assistance by dispatching the nearest patrolling team.

Users can also pre-register emergency contacts who will be notified in case of an alert, creating an extended safety network. Regular updates ensure the app remains efficient and responsive, adapting to users' needs and feedback to improve safety and accessibility.

Safety islands, on the other hand, are designated safe zones established in key locations across the city, such as major bus stops, metro stations, and busy intersections.

These areas are marked with distinctive signage, and safety islands are set up to offer quick access to help, for anyone needing immediate assistance.

Managed by city authorities, the alert goes to the Command centre and the nearest police station is updated with a patrolling team being dispatched for assistance.

Women in distress can also dial Namma 112 where police assistance reaches them within five minutes.

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I, Janaki Veera Venkata Immadi, W/O I V S V B Panchajanyam Lakshmiopathi, R/O 10/1, Flat No 1708, Birla Apple Spire 17th floor No 127/1, Mysuru road, Nayandahalli Metro station, Pantharapalya, Bangalore South, Karnataka-560039, have changed my name to I V V Janaki for all purposes.

I, Emmie Jennieffer W/o Joslyn Prashantha Karkada R/o No.61/1-A3, V6 Enclave, B-FF-115, Gubbala main Rd, Uttarahalli, B'luru 560061 have changed my name to Emmie Jennieffer Karkada Affidavit Dt.30/10/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Arunima Das Podder W/o Anirban Mandal R/o No.305, Mahaveer Seasons, 24th main, HSR layout, Somsundarpalya, Bengaluru 560102 have changed my name to Arunima Mandal Affidavit Dt.30/10/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Har Sajan Singh R/o Flat A-802 #222/183 Sumadhura Silver Ripples, Nallurhalli, Borewell Road, Whitefield, Bangalore - have changed my minor daughter's name from Palak Har Sajan Singh to H Palak Kaur for all purposes

I, Feroze Sattar Sait S/o Hajeerabul Sattar Sait No.531, The embassy Apts No.15 Ali Asgar road, Bengaluru 560052 have changed my name to Feroz Sattar Sait Affidavit Dt.30/10/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Surjeet Singh Sardar Amar Singh S/o Sardar Amar Singh Gurdip Singh R/o Flat A802, Sumadhura Silver Ripple, Borewell Road, Nallurhalli, Whitefield, Bangalore - 560066 have changed my name to Surjeet Singh for all purposes.

I Hasan Khan Kadur Amirjansab S/o, Amir Jan Sab R/o Mohammadiya Masjid, Bulb Factory Road, Gowrikaluve, Chikkamagalur have changed my name to Hassain Khan for all purposes.

I Abdul Khadir Siddi Mohammed Ali Saheb Dhinda s/o Siddi Mohammed, #26/4, 9th Main Old Guruppanapalya, Btm 1st Stage B'lore-560 029 have changed my name to Abdul khadir Siddi Mohammed

I Basavakumara Koppal Siddappa S/O, Siddappa R/o No 44 Shambhavinagar Laggere Bengaluru - 560058 have changed my name to Basavakumar Siddappa.

I, Mansoor Aman R/o #28, Dasappa Garden, Rt Nagar, Bangalore 560033 have changed my minor son's name from Mohammad Ayyan to Mohammad Ayyan Khan.

I, BI BI Ayesha W/o Abdul Wakil Ameer R/o #8 Ameer Aasra 8th Cross Bomannahalli B'lore-560068 have changed my name to Ayesha Wakil.



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Crumbling road cries ignored, citizens raise funds for repair

Chambenahalli's roads are battered due to daily traffic of heavy vehicles; no action despite repeated pleas for basic infra



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Residents of Chambenahalli, a locality off Sarjapur Road, have decided to take road repairs into their own hands after months of requesting basic infrastructure improvements from the authorities without any response.

In September, citizens had gathered to protest the poor condition of roads, pleading for better infrastructure. But with no action taken by authorities, locals have now raised funds themselves to fix the deteriorating roads.

These roads have not been fixed for years despite multiple requests and are now riddled with potholes and are severely damaged by the constant movement of infrared trucks operating day and night for construction projects in the area. "We watch these heavy trucks pass through every day, causing even more damage."

The roads are barely drivable. We risk our lives every day using them, and yet the trucks keep going without any accountability,"

said a resident.

Members from Citizens for East Bengaluru said, "The state of the roads has become a serious safety issue, especially for children and those with health conditions. School buses are forced to take these risky routes daily, causing anxiety for parents who fear accidents or injuries."

No use during emergencies

Adding to the concerns, the roads are unsuitable for emergency vehicles, putting lives at risk, especially for expectant mothers and elderly residents who need medical attention.

"Even a simple emergency would be a nightmare here. If someone has a medical emergency, there's no safe way to get to the hospital," they added.

Chambenahalli residents feel their locality is not treated like part of the city, despite its proximity to urban amenities. "We don't even feel like a part of Bengaluru. This is worse than a village, and it's embarrassing to say that," said another resident.

This self-driven road repair pro-



ject represents a community's resilience and determination, but residents are still frustrated at being forced to handle what they see as a basic civic responsibility. "We shouldn't have to pay for our own roads. This should be the government's job, yet here we are," said the resident.

The citizens of Chambenahalli hope that their actions will bring attention to the issue, urging authorities to take immediate, permanent measures to improve road safety and infrastructure in the area.

Golden touch of duty

Gold ornaments left on train safely returned to owner

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In an exemplary display of swift action, South Western Railway officials successfully recovered and returned a bag containing gold ornaments worth approximately ₹5.4 lakh to its owner. The bag, inadvertently left behind on Train No. 16580 Shivamogga Town-Yesvantpur, was located and returned to its rightful owner within hours.

The incident unfolded when a passenger travelling on the train realised he had forgotten his bag in the rear general coach after disembarking at Tumakuru. He immediately contacted the Tumakuru outpost, who alerted the railway authorities. The South Western Railway team quickly responded, tracking the train to Yesvantpur Station where the bag was found.

Upon inspection, the bag contained a Mangal Sutra weighing 40 grams (valued at ₹2,80,000), a necklace weighing 20 grams (₹1,40,000), a pair of earrings weighing 10 grams (₹50,000), and a neck chain weighing 10 grams (₹70,000). The total value of the ornaments was pegged at ₹5.4 lakh.

After a thorough verification process, including documenting and photographing the recovered items, the valuables were safely handed over to the passenger following all necessary legal



procedures.

Expressing his gratitude, the relieved passenger praised the railway team for their prompt response and commitment to passenger security. He commended their professionalism and dedication, acknowledging that their prompt response safeguarded his belongings and

Passenger remembers he left bag on train, contacts Tumakuru outpost; South Western Railway team responds quickly

reinforced his trust in South Western Railway's commitment to passenger security.

Illegal Goan liquor seized, accused arrested

Excise officials arrested a man named Purushottam from Katriguppe for storing illegal Goan liquor worth approximately ₹5 lakh. Purushottam was reportedly linked with liquor shop owners in Goa and was buying low-priced liquor from there, transporting it by bus to Bengaluru, and storing it at his home.

The arrest took place after Purushottam was stopped on his bike at Banashankari 2nd Stage. Upon questioning and checking his mobile phone, authorities discovered his connections with a liquor store in Goa. Further investigation led officials to Purushottam's residence, where they found a large stock of Goan liquor bottles, permitted for sale only in Goa.

A total of 144 bottles were seized during the raid. The liquor had been illegally brought into the city to avoid taxes and sell at higher prices. A case has been registered against Purushottam under sections 11, 14, 15, 38(2), and 43(A) of the Karnataka Excise Act.

Social activist files defamation suit against CM Siddaramaiah



TJ Abraham



Siddaramaiah

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Social activist T.J. Abraham has filed a defamation lawsuit against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, accusing him of making defamatory remarks during a media interaction on Wednesday. The complaint was submitted to a special court that handles cases involving current and former MPs and MLAs.

In his 19-page petition, Abraham alleged that the Chief Minister labeled him a "blackmailer with bad antecedents" during an August 2 press briefing. The remarks were made in response to questions

regarding the ongoing investigation into the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam. Abraham, one of the petitioners seeking the Governor's approval to probe Siddaramaiah's involvement in the scam, claims the remarks were an attempt to damage his reputation.

Abraham told reporters, "Siddaramaiah publicly called me a blackmailer while he himself has illegally acquired 14 sites. His statements are driven by vengeance, and I have filed a defamation case against him. Let's see how he defends himself."

In the MUDA case, it is alleged that compensatory sites were allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife in an upmarket area in Mysuru, which had higher property value as compared to

the location of her land which had been "acquired" by the MUDA.

The MUDA had allotted plots to Parvathi under a 50:50 ratio scheme in lieu of 3.16 acres of her land, where it developed a residential layout.

Under the controversial scheme, MUDA allotted 50 per cent of developed land to the land losers in lieu of undeveloped land acquired from them for forming residential layouts.

It is alleged that Parvathi had no legal title over this 3.16 acres of land at survey number 464 of Kasare village, Kasaba hobli of Mysuru taluk.

Karnataka Lokayukta police, and the Directorate of Enforcement have launched an investigation into the 'scam'.

The Chief Minister has denied any wrongdoing in the alleged scam.

Based on the petition filed by Abraham, the Governor issued a notice to the Chief Minister on July 26 directing him to submit his reply to the allegations against him within seven days justifying why permission to prosecute him should not be granted.

On August 2, Siddaramaiah told reporters: "...further, if you look at T.J. Abraham's

antecedents, he is a blackmailer. Acting on his complaint is illegal. He has been giving complaints against several people like this. I have not committed any such offence."

(With inputs from agencies)

PAGE 12 Casting coup



PVR - INOX CINEMAS {DIRECTORS CUT, FORUM REX WALK | NEXUS FORUM MALL, KORMANGALA | ORION MALL, YESHWANTPUR | VAISHNAVI SAPPHIRE MALL, TUMKUR ROAD | VEGA CITY MALL | MSR REGALIA | PHOENIX MARKET CITY, K.R. PURAM | BHARTIYA CITY | GT WORLD MALL | AURA PARK SQUARE, WHITEFIELD ROAD | SPIRIT MALL | VR MALL, WHITEFIELD ROAD | GLOBAL MALL, NAYANDALLI | FALCON CITY MALL KANAKAPURA ROAD | UPTOWN OMR MALL | SUPERPLEX FALCON CITY | PHOENIX MALL OF ASIA | MANTRI MALL | CENTRAL MALL, J.P. NAGAR | GARUDA MALL | SWAGATH MALL | BROOKFIELD MALL | LIDO | VALUE MALL | GALLERIA MALL, RMZ YELAHANKA, | GARUDA, YELAHANKA | SBR HORIZON, SEEGERHALLI | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS {ROYAL MEENAKSHI MALL | ETA MALL, BINNY MALL | EAST ORION MALL | SHANTINIKETAN | SJR SPECTRUM MALL | LULU MALL (TRD) | LULU MALL (VIP) | GOPALAN CINEMAS {ARCADE MALL | LEGACY MALL | GRAND MALL | SIGNATURE MALL | INNOVATION MALL | INNOVATIVE (MARATHALLI) | V CLASS CINEMAS | CINEPHILE {HSR LAYOUT | MIRAJ CINEMAS {SUNKADAKATTE | MOVIE TIME {DAVANGERE | BELLARY | RR NAGAR | NEW FANGLED MULTIPLEX | SWAGATH {SHANKARNAG | MANASA THEATRE | SANDHYA THEATRE | BRUNDHA THEATRE | SRINIVASA THEATRE {SG PALYA | PRASANNA THEATRE | SANTOSH RPC LAYOUT | VINAYAKA THEATRE VARTHUR | VAISHNAVI VYBHAVI | VYBHAV THEATRE | KAMAKYA TEHATRE | VINAYAKA THEATRE MARATHAHALLI | RADHAKRISHNA CHITRAMANDIRA | SRI RAMA THEATRE {RAMANAGARA | NARTHAKI | SIDDALINGESHWARA | VENKATESWARA {KENGURI | BALAJI {CHIKKALSANDRA | ROCKLINE | KINO CINEMAS | PVR - INOX CINEMAS {FIZA MALL, MANGALORE | FORUM MALL, MYSORE | GARUDA MALL, MYSORE | CENTRAL, MANIPAL | SATYAM MALL, MYSORE | S MALL, TUMKUR | CENTRO MALL MYSORE | CINEPOLIS {CITY CENTRE MALL, MANGALORE | BHARATH CINEMAS {MANGALORE | MANIPAL | KUNDAPUR | PADUBIDRE | PUTTUR | SHIMOGA | UDUPI | DRC CINEMAS {MYSORE | JAI BHARATH {TUMKUR | CINE GALAXY {SURATKAL | VASANTHA THEATRE {DAVANAGERE | NATARAJ COMPLEX {BELLARY | LAKSHMI {HOSPET | NARTHAKI THEATRE {KG ROAD | VISION CINEMA {MYSORE | SANGAM {MYSORE | SAHYADRI {HASSAN | MAHADESHWARA | BALAJI THEATRE {BANNIMANTAPA | & Other Cinemas.

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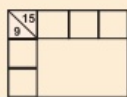
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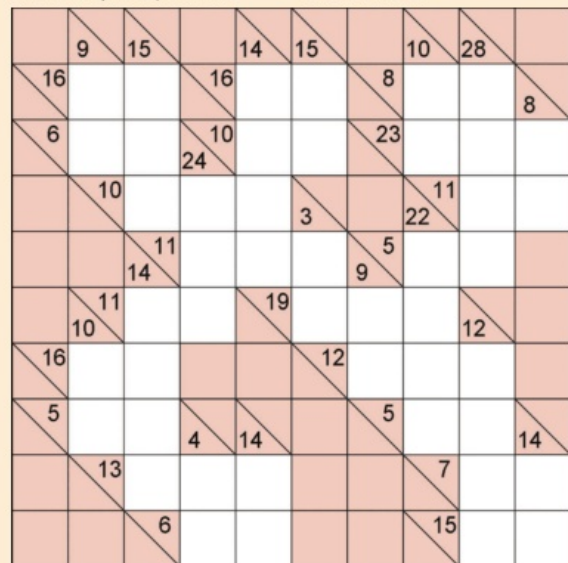
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

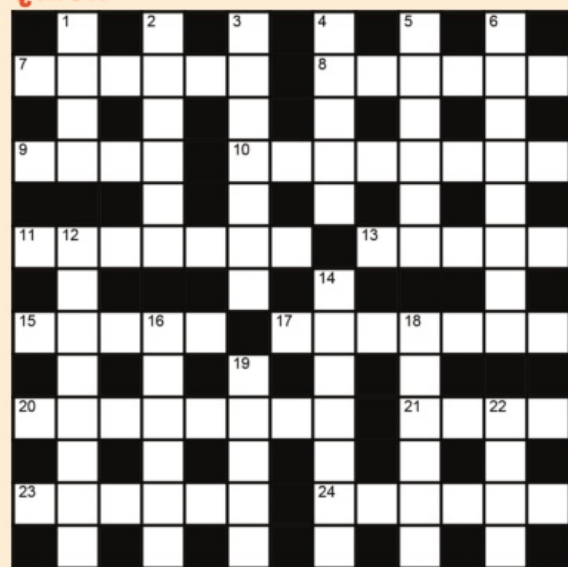


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 7 Merchant of Venice character (6)
- 8 Come to an end (3,3)
- 9 One as a prefix; not a stereo (4)
- 10 Aspiration (8)
- 11 Chart (7)
- 13 Savoury jelly (5)
- 15 Keep or hide away (5)
- 17 Serfdom (7)
- 20 Entails (8)
- 21 First lady of "Ramayana" (4)
- 23 Menuhin : famous U.S. violin virtuoso? (6)
- 24 Ted's name? (6)

DOWN

- 1 Fast food order (2,2)
- 2 Mighty (6)
- 3 Restaurant at the Leela Place (7)
- 4 Race or breed (5)
- 5 Merges or brings together (6)
- 6 Hanging down, declining or withering (8)
- 12 Meant or signified (8)
- 14 Makes hair untidy? (7)
- 16 Fill in hole (4,2)
- 18 Disclaim or deny (6)
- 19 Evade (5)
- 22 Limited period of time (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS G
BWTDT MJ QVBWMQY KVDJT
BWRQ XTMQY RJWRPTE VA
SRDJMPVQC VD SVZTDBC.



Linemaro

You look like you might be interested in some great conversation



Mindchow

The thing we call failure is not the falling down, but the staying down



Joke of the day

What do you call a bee that lives in America? USB

Loop

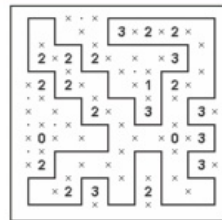
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

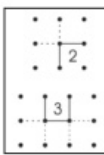
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



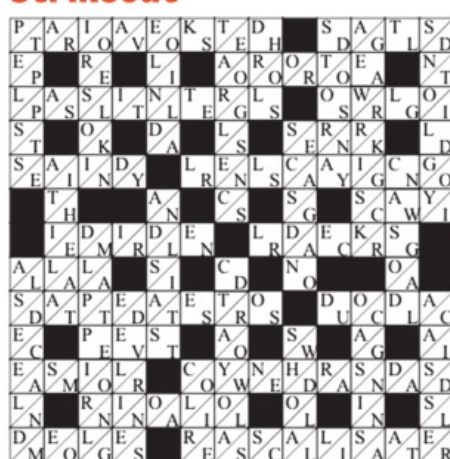
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



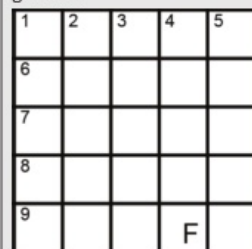
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

- 1 C chou; 6 Ah pal;
- 7 Din it; 8 Is vie;
- 9 D felt

DOWN

- 1 Nicad; 2 Voile;
- 3 Lit up; 4 Fiche;
- 5 Thads

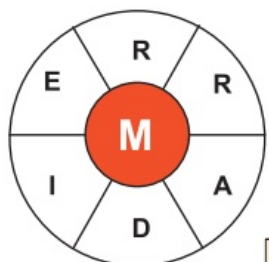
Mensapuzzle

Here's a puzzle where speed counts.

$$649 \times 47 = P$$

$$649 \times 46 = ?$$

- 1) P - 47
- 2) P - 649
- 3) P - 602
- 4) 47P - 648
- 5) 649 + (P - 47)



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

19 Average; 21 Good; 23 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

$$\square \square \square \square = 24$$

$$2 \square 6 \square 7 \square 9$$

Medium

$$\square \square \square \square = 19$$

$$3 \square 4 \square 4 \square 8$$

Hard

$$\square \square \square \square = 21$$

$$4 \square 6 \square 9 \square 6$$

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Word on hood is smaller. 2. Grill is different. 3. Label is missing. 4. Lights are different. 5. Hat is different. 6. Awning is smaller.

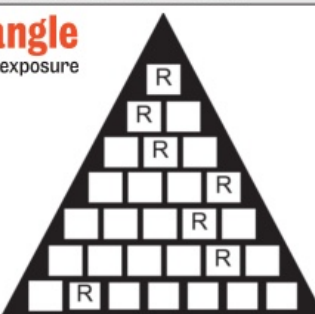
Riddler

There are five doors, one leads to the exit, the others lead to traps. They are in a line. The clues tell you which position the doors are in the line and where the door to freedom is. All the clues are true. Each door has a clue written on it. The clues read: The blue door: This door is two spots away from the door to freedom. The red door: This door is at the far right, and is two spots away from the blue door. The purple door: This door is not next to the door to freedom. The green door: This door is left of the blue door. The orange door: This door is not next to the red or blue doors. Which door leads to freedom?

Alpha triangle

- 1 A unit of radiation exposure
- 2 In reference to
- 3 Is for two
- 4 Scorch
- 5 Trap
- 6 Ticks off
- 7 Citrus fruits

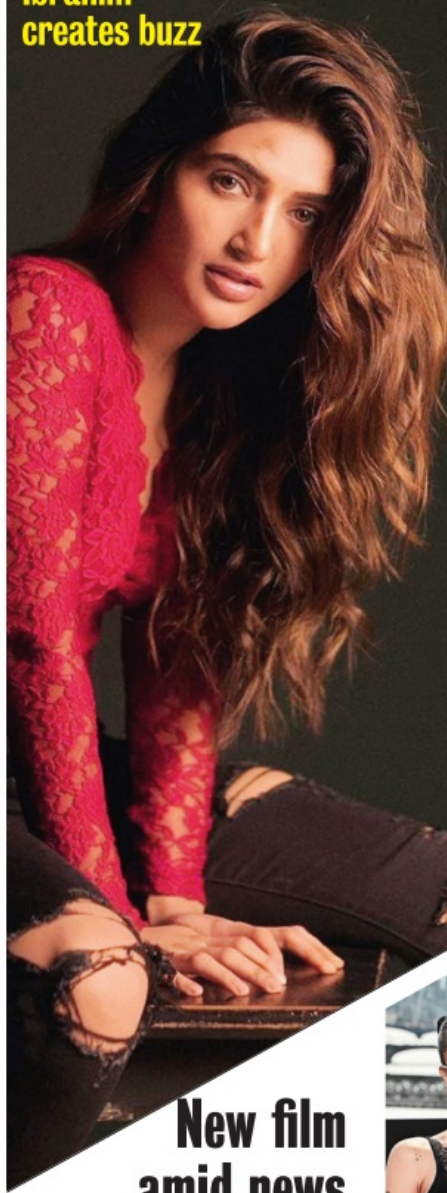
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

Casting coup

Fresh new pairing of Sreeleela, Ibrahim creates buzz



Producer Dinesh Vijan is preparing for one of his most anticipated projects, launching Ibrahim Ali Khan in Bollywood. In an exciting casting choice, Ibrahim's debut will feature South Indian star Sreeleela as his co-star. This casting coup by Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Films has generated a buzz, pairing Ibrahim with Sreeleela in a fresh duo that audiences are already eager to see on screen. Sources reveal that the pair recently completed their first shooting schedule in London, building anticipation for what this unique combination will bring to the big screen. With Dinesh Vijan backing the project, expectations are high for Ibrahim and Sreeleela's performances in this debut collaboration.

Ibrahim Ali Khan, the son of Bollywood stars Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh, joins Sreeleela, a prominent face in the South film industry, for this promising venture. Audiences are eager to watch this new pairing, especially under the direction of Vijan, known for delivering blockbusters. Alongside this pro-

ject, Ibrahim is also working on 'Sarameen', produced by Karan Johar, further fueling excitement for his entry into the industry. Dinesh Vijan and Maddock Films have a strong reputation with hits like the 'Stree' and 'Bhediya' franchises, among others, making this new film another awaited release in their lineup. —ETimes



New film amid news of breakup

In a surprising twist of events, Channing Tatum revealed a new film project with Zoe Kravitz just hours before reports emerged about their engagement coming to an end.

The Magic Mike star shared the news on October 29 via his Instagram Stories, promoting the upcoming comedy 'Alpha Gang', which features both him and Zoe alongside a star-studded cast that includes Cate Blanchett, Steven Yeun, Riley Keough, and Lea Seydoux. The film centres around a group of alien invaders on a mission to conquer Earth, blending humour with science fiction, as per E! News.

Tatum's announcement came just two hours prior to E! News reporting that he and Kravitz had ended their engagement, leaving fans stunned by the timing.



As of now, neither Channing, 44, nor Zoe, 35, have publicly commented on their split.

Channing and Zoe's relationship began in 2021, when they were introduced by mutual friend Riley and later collaborated on Zoe's directorial debut, 'Blink Twice', released in August.

Their romance sparked dating rumours during the film's production, especially when they were spotted together riding Channing's motorcycle around New York City.

By October 2023, they were engaged, with Zoe proudly showcasing her engagement ring at a Halloween party. Throughout their time together, Zoe frequently praised Channing for his open-mindedness. —ANI



Bollywood's beloved couple, Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif continue to impress fans with their loving relationship. Their public displays of love leave the hearts of fans melting. They recently captured hearts once again when Vicky shared a steamy photo from his latest photoshoot. Katrina's heartfelt reaction to the post adds an extra layer of sweetness to their romance.

Vicky Kaushal posted a captivat-

All hearts

ing image on Instagram from his recent photoshoot, showcasing his style in an unbuttoned white shirt layered under a sleek jacket, complemented by silver chains and trendy glasses. This striking look not only turned heads but also ignited excitement among fans. His confident demeanor in the photo has certainly raised the temperature on social media.

Katrina Kaif was quick to express her admiration in the comments section, posting a heart-eyed emoji that perfectly encapsulated her feelings for her husband. Their playful interaction highlights the deep affection they share, making them a favourite among fans who adore their chemistry.

Just days before this, Katrina had celebrated Karwa Chauth with Vicky, sharing beautiful moments from their festivities. The couple looked stunning in traditional attire as they posed alongside family members. —ETimes

release in Hindi and other languages after some time,"

Gowda said. He said the movie Bagheera is special and has all elements to entertain the audiences. "Not many Kannada movies were made based on superhero or vigilante-based content. Bagheera belongs to the superhero vigilante genre and it has sentiments, romance and other elements to entertain the audiences," he said.

The movie is directed by Dr Suri with director Prashanth Neel providing the script. According to sources, the action scenes would make mass audiences have a great time while watching the movie at theaters.

—BMB



Bagheera to release at 400 screens in Karnataka

The much-awaited movie Bagheera is releasing at 400 screens across Karnataka and 500 screens in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on Thursday. Roaring Star Sriimurali of Ugram fame plays a police officer and the masked vigilante Bagheera in the movie. Rukmini Vasanth is paired opposite Sriimurali.

The movie is produced by Vijay Kiragandur under the Hombale Productions banner. "Bagheera is a special movie. We did it sincerely. All the cast and crew worked hard during the shooting. The movie has come out well," said producer Chaluve Gowda.

Gowda said Bagheera would be released in Kannada and Telugu simultaneously. "We had a plan to release it in Hindi but postponed it because of a shortage of theaters and screens due to the release of two Hindi movies. We will take a decision on its

release in Hindi and other languages after some time,"

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Nayanthara's docu-film finally gets a release date, to be out in November

The wait is finally over as Netflix on Wednesday announced the release date of Nayanthara's docu-film.

Titled 'Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairy Tale', the project will be launched on the streaming giant on the actress' birthday on November 18. Earlier, the documentary was announced as Nayanthara's wedding film. Later, it became a docu-film about her illustrious career and personal life.

Sharing the release date,

Netflix on Instagram wrote, "In every universe, she's the brightest star. Watch the lady superstar and her stellar journey on Nayanthara: Beyond The Fairy Tale on 18 November, only on Netflix!" Earlier the teaser for Nayanthara: Beyond The Fairytale was unveiled at Tudum: A Netflix Global Fan Event. The little over one-minute teaser showcases the preparations for Nayanthara and Vignesh Shivan's grand wedding.

—ANI

